Surgeon Dr J Herbert

March - May, 1915

FROM DR J. HUBERT JAGGER
42 ARGYLE CRESCENT, JOPPA, EDINBURGH

3rd March, 1915.

Rev. R. A. Falconer, C. M. G.,
President of the University,
Toronto.

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I noticed with much regret the mention in the Scotsman of the death of Professor Stevenson, whom I knew some years ago when we were students in Edinburgh.

Like him I have been preparing myself for the teaching of English Language and Literature, and indeed have been engaged in that work for some years past. As I expect that the University of Toronto may want a successor for him, and as such a post is one that I desire I venture to write to you describing my qualifications briefly.

I am 34 years of age. My University study was made at King's College, London, and at Edinburgh University. In 1904 I took the B.A. degree of London University, and in 1908 the M.A. in Mediaeval and Modern Languages, (English Branch) with Distinction In 1908 I graduated at Edinburgh with Honours in Mental Philosophy, and in July last obtained the Doctorate of Letters of Edinburgh for researches into Elizabethan Literature. I am engaged at present in making arrangement for the publication of the revised result of these researches. I also studied for a time at Oxford the Teaching of English, and was awarded distinction in my examination for the Diploma in that subject.

For the last five years I have been Senior English Master in the High School of Edinburgh. Since 1912 I have examined Welsh Schools in English for the Central Welsh Board of Education; I am also an External Examiner in the University of Edinburgh in English Language and Literature, and the representative of the University in English for the current year on the Joint Board of Examiners of the Scottish Universities.

I can, of course, if the opportunity should be given me, provide all the necessary testimonials and references, especially from Professor Saintsbury, though I have not spoken to him about this subject.

Hoping you will pardon my intrusion,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Jagger.

J. Hubert Jagger.

March 24th, 1915

Dr. J. Hubert Jager,

42 Argyle Crescent,

Joppa.

Dear Sir:

I am not sure that we shall find it possible to fill the vacancy caused by the deeply regretted death of Mr. Stevenson. Various reasons arising out of our present circumstances will probably cause us to delay. I shall be glad, however, if you will send me any testimonials and references that you may have, because it is just possible that the position may be filled before the opening of next session.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Replaceable

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April 19th, 1915.

Rev. Robert A. Falconer,

President of the University,

Toronto.

Dear Sir,

I beg to thank you for your letter of March 24th, stating that you would like me to send you any testimonials and references I might have, because it was just possible that ~~the~~ Mr Stevenson's position might be filled before the opening of next session. Your letter reached me when I was away from home, so that I found it impossible to collect the documents immediately, but I have done so as quickly as possible.

I have made them as few as I could. The first, from Professor Watson, I have had written for the present purpose, and I wish it to be regarded as evidence on teaching. The second, from Professor Saintsbury, consists merely of extracts from a general testimonial, and is meant to bear on knowledge of the subject. Instead of asking Professor Saintsbury to write me something for this occasion, as he was very willing to do, I have asked to write if applied to. In the event of any idea of appointing me being entertained I should very much like Professor Saintsbury to be written to, on account both of his authority and ~~because~~ of his personal knowledge of me. Dr Watson will of course answer any further questions that

might be addressed to him. My third reference is Professor Grierson, The University, Aberdeen, who is well acquainted with me, and whose name I have included because he has met me in other connections, such as at meetings of the Joint Board of Examiners of the Scottish Universities, meetings of the English Association and so forth. I can supply a much larger number of references and testimonials if desired, but these three seemed to me to provide everything essential. I venture to express the hope that the matter will be pursued, although I recognise that present ~~xxxx~~ circumstances may cause you to delay.

Yours faithfully,

J Hubert Jagger

From W. J. Watson, Esq., B.A.(Oxon.), M.A.,L.L.D.(Aberdeen): Professor of Celtic in the University of Edinburgh. (Late Rector of the Royal High School of Edinburgh.)

University of Edinburgh,

10 April, 1915.

I am most happy to have the privilege of writing in favour of my late colleague, Mr J. H. Jagger, M.A. (Lond.) D.Litt. (Edin.). My acquaintance with Dr Jagger dates from October of 1909, when we came together to the Royal High School of Edinburgh, I as Headmaster, he as Senior English Master, and we were closely associated till I left the School in December, 1914. During those years I had ample opportunity of knowing Dr Jagger's work in all its details, and also of becoming acquainted with him as a man and as a scholar.

As Senior Master of the English Department, Dr Jagger was responsible for the grading of the English work of the whole School. He annually drew up a fully-detailed and articulated syllabus thereof, consulted with the other masters as to the progress of the work, and reported to me thereon terminally in the most thoroughgoing manner. He found his department in rather a chaotic condition, and by dint of hard work and sound and excellent methods he soon succeeded in bringing it to a high state of efficiency. I was particularly struck with the masterly way in which he contrived to arrange and correlate the manifold aspects of the curriculum in English, maintaining a just balance between accurate intensive study on the one hand and a broad literary culture on the other. This feature of his work was consciously and successfully aimed at from the first, and was increasingly marked as time went on. In addition, his vivid personality had an arresting and inspiring effect on his pupils. The highest educational authorities repeatedly express-

ed to me their admiration of Dr Jagger's work, and I regarded it myself as exceptionally brilliant.

It is hardly necessary for me to speak of Dr Jagger's qualifications as an English scholar. They are sufficiently attested by the fact that the University of Edinburgh has granted him the degree of Doctor of Literature in respect of his attainments, and I understand that he is the first, and so far the only one, to obtain that degree in the department of English. I may add, however, that I have often had occasion to consult him, and have availed myself of his special scholarship with gratitude, and with appreciation of his mastery over his subject.

His relations with me were most cordial, and are very pleasant in the retrospect. Nothing could exceed his readiness to further my schemes for the good of the school, or to help me by any means in his power. I found him a most agreeable colleague, equable in temperament, frank in statement, gentlemanly in feeling and in action. He had the respect, and, I believe, the affection of the boys. His relations with his colleagues on the Staff were excellent.

I venture to express the opinion that there are very few men at the present day so well qualified as Dr Jagger in respect of ~~schola~~ scholarship, of skill in exposition, and of strength of character, to fill a Chair in the subject of English. I feel confident that if he is appointed to such a Chair, he will adorn and distinguish it, and that his teaching will be scholarly, practical and stimulating.

W. J. Watson.

From Professor Saintsbury, M.A. and Hon. D.Litt., Oxon.; Hon. L. L.D., Aberdeen; Hon. D.Litt. Durham; Fellow of the British Academy; Hon. Fellow of Merton College, Oxford; Professor of English Language and Literature in the University of Edinburgh.

2 Eton Terrace,

Edinburgh, 6th Aug. 1914.

I have known Dr J. H. Jagger for nearly ten years, during the earlier part of which he was a student of mine. He attended my Honours classes, and did exceedingly well in them. He was also proxime accessit for the Vans Dunlop Scholarship in English, and obtained the Lanfine Bursary in the subject.

Since he was with me he has been mainly occupied as Head of the English Department in the Royal High School. But he has occupied part of his time in composing a thesis, by which he obtained the Edinburgh Doctorate of Letters, on " Prose in the Elizabethan Drama." This thesis, when published, will be one of the most useful monographs recently contributed to the study of Elizabethan Literature. It dis-plays unusual reading and equally unusual ability to manage that reading, and while showing good acquaintance with previous writing in connection with the subject, it is completely independent and original in its treatment.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Both in my direct dealings with him as a student, and in what I have learnt of him since, I have found Dr. Jagger a man of unusual ability, information, and power of work, and I believe him to be possessed of considerable strength and decision of character. His knowledge is wide and well at his command. And he has had much experience of teaching. .....

George Saintsbury.

Please See over

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May 3. 1915

My dear Falconer

The delay in replying to your letter is not accidental. I have been making a variety of enquiries both about Dr H. Jagger, and other men of whom I knew something. First, as to Jagger. He is evidently quite a good man, distinctly above the average English master in a school, and has done some capable research. He is said to be a nice fellow personally, but he seems to lack the power of impressive speech. An intrinsic friend of mine, an excellent judge, heard him lecture recently, and was greatly disappointed. The matter was competent enough: the manner was extremely poor.

I wonder whether you have heard of Blyth Webster, who assists Saintsbury at the University. He is a very interesting person, with a somewhat Chestertonian vein, but a very fascinating lecturer. I have no idea how he would regard so momentous a step as this. He is a married man. I believe that it might be possible for you to get some very brilliant man from this side, if the salary available were adequate. Would you mind letting me know the actual amount, and also what

precisely the position is: I mean, whether a fresh partner-ship or an associate.

Is there any chance of seeing you on this side in the coming summer? Or do you think from a voyage under present conditions? You will be proud of the splendid appearance the Canadian troops made in the last terrible battle. They have covered themselves with glory.

This constant cry is, how long?

With best wishes

Yours very truly

H. A. A. Kennedy

May 20th, 1915

J. Hubert Jagger, Esq.,

42 Argyle Crescent,

Joppa, Edinburgh.

My dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge your letter of April 19th, accompanied by testimonials from Dr. A. J. Watson and Professor Saintsbury. These are of a very high order, and I have handed them to our Head Professor of English. I do not think, however, that there is any likelihood of an immediate appointment being made to the position vacated by the death of Professor Stevenson.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.